

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEPHEN),

(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: AP AND UPI TICKER ITEMS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AP TICKER ITEM DATED JUNE 25,  
11:24 EDT: QTE DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA -- "A ZAIRE GUNBOAT  
SHELLED THE SHORE OF LAKE TANGANYIKA NEAR THREE KIDNAPPED  
AMERICAN AND DUTCH STUDENTS AND PREVENTED A RESCUE BOAT  
CARRYING U.S. DIPLOMATS FROM LANDING, WITNESSES REPORTED  
TODAY.

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THE WITNESS SAID THE RESCUE ATTEMPT WAS ABANDONED TUESDAY

AS THE FATHER OF ONE OF THE AMERICAN STUDENTS WATCHED THE CAPTIVES SIGNALING THE RESCUERS WITH FLASHING MIRRORS. THE BOAT RETURNED ABOUT 30 MILES ACROSS THE LAKE FROM ZAIRE TO KIGOMA, TANZANIA, WITHOUT THE HOSTAGES.

U.S. OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT THE INCIDENT OCCURRED, BUT DECLINED TO REVEAL DETAILS OF THE RESCUE ATTEMPT OR TO SAY WHETHER IT MEANT RANSOM DEMANDS OF THE GUERRILLA KIDNAPERS HAD BEEN MET. IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THE STUDENTS WERE FREE FROM THEIR CAPTORS OR WERE STILL BEING HELD WHEN THE RESCUE BOAT APPROACHED.

IT WAS ALSO UNCLEAR WHETHER THE SHELLING WAS DELIBERATELY INTENDED TO PREVENT THE RESCUE OR WHETHER THE GUNNERS BELIEVED THE BOAT WAS A GUERRILLA CRAFT.

WITNESSES SAID NORMAN HUNTER, FATHER OF CARRIE JANE HUNTER, 21, OF ATHERTON, CALIF., WAS UPSET AND OUTRAGED AS HE WATCHED THROUGH BINOCULARS FROM A HIGH HILL NEAR KIGOMA.

HIS DAUGHTER, ALONG WITH KENNETH STEPHEN SMITH, 22, OF GARDEN GROVE, CALIF., BOTH STANFORD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND EMILIE BERGMANN, 25, OF THE NETHERLANDS, WERE KIDNAPPED FROM A BABOON STUDY CAMP NEAR KIGOMA FIVE WEEKS AGO BY MARXISTGUERRILLAS FROM ZAIRE, THE FORMER BELGIAN CONGO.

A FOURTH HOSTAGE, BARBARA SMUTS, 24, OF ANN ARBOR, MICH., WAS RELEASED WITH LETTERS DEMANDING THAT TANZANIA FREE GUERRILLA LEADERS FROM DETENTION BY MID-JULY IN EXCHANGE FOR THE LIVES OF THE OTHER HOSTAGES. DEMANDS WERE ALSO MADE FOR \$500,000 AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

TANZANIA REJECTED THE DEMANDS AND BOTH TANZANIA AND ZAIRE HAVE GIVEN LITTLE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO U.S. DIPLOMATS ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE THE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS.  
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2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UPI TICKER ITEM DATED JUNE 25, 11:54 AED: QTE DAR ES SALAAM -- "A PLAN TO RESCUE THREE FOREIGN STUDENTS HELD HOSTAGE BY MARXIST AFRICAN GUERRILLAS FOR FIVE WEEKS COLLAPSED ONLY MINUTES AWAY FROM SUCCESS WHEN A ZAIRE GOVERNMENT PATROL BOAT FIRED ON A FISHING VESSEL ATTEMPTING TO PICK UP THE HOSTAGES, WITNESSES SAID TODAY.

THEY SAID THE FISHING VESSEL, WHICH APPARENTLY HAD A  
HUGH RANSOM ABOARD, LEFT THE TANZANIAN LAKE PORT OF  
KIGOMA TUESDAY TO PICK UP THE THREE STUDENTS ON THE  
ZAIRE SIDE OF LAKE TANGANYIKA.

THE PICKUP WAS PART OF A COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENT WITH  
LEFT-WING REBELS HOLDING THE STUDENTS.

HOWEVER, AS THE BOAT MANEUVERED TOWARD THE ZAIRES SHORE  
WHERE THE THREE STUDENTS WERE SIGNALING WITH MIRRORS, A  
FAST PATROL BOAT OF THE ZAIRES GOVERNMENT APPEARED AND  
BEGAN LOBBING SHELLS IN FRONT OF THE FISHING BOAT AND

TOWARDS THE STUDENTS, THE WITNESSES SAID.

THE FISHING BOAT IMMEDIATELY TURNED AROUND TOWARDS  
TANZANIA AND THE STUDENTS FLED BACK IN THE BUSH. UNQTE.  
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